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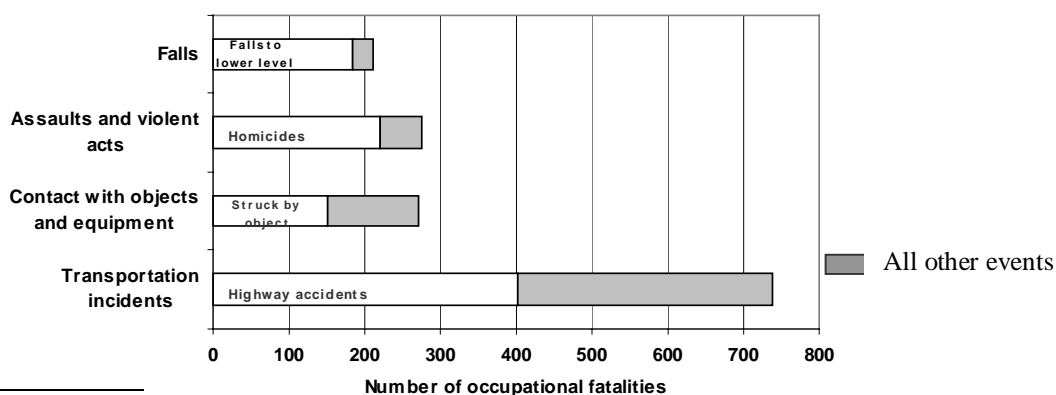
WORK-RELATED DEATHS IN THE SOUTHEAST, 2001

Fatal work injuries in the Southeast¹ totaled 1,679 in 2001, 18 fewer than recorded in 2000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the number of fatalities resulting from workplace homicides and being struck by an object were the largest contributors to the decline. Deaths resulting from electrocutions were also down in 2001. On the other hand, fatal work-related injuries resulting from highway crashes and falls to a lower level recorded an increase. The total number of fatal occupational injuries in the Southeast accounted for about 28 percent of the 5,900 casualties occurring nationwide². Nationally, fatalities were down 20 over the year, with workplace homicides also leading the decline. (See table 1.)

Profile of calendar year 2001 fatal work injuries in the Southeast

Highway crashes made up the largest portion of job-related fatalities (423) in the Southeast in 2001, accounting for almost 25 percent of all fatal work injuries. Deaths resulting from a fall to a lower level (200) accounted for almost 12 percent of the fatal work injury count and homicides (189) made up 11 percent. All together, these three events accounted for nearly half of the fatal workplace injuries in the Southeast, about the same as for the nation as a whole. (See table 1 and chart 1 below.)

Chart 1. Leading causes of fatal workplace injuries in the Southeast, 2001



¹ The 2001 Southeast CFOI release has been expanded to include all of the South Atlantic Census Division (Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia) and the East South Central Census Division (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee.).

² When the 2,886 fatalities (homicides) from the terrorists attacks on September 11th are included in the overall count, there were 8,786 fatal work injuries reported in the United States in 2001. These fatalities were excluded from data in this release for the U. S., as well as for the Southeast, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, so as not to distort over-the-year comparisons.

Two other events resulted in more than 50 deaths in the Southeast. Being struck by an object accounted for 138 fatalities or almost 8 percent of the total. Eighty-nine workers were electrocuted.

State and metropolitan highlights

In the Southeast, the largest number of fatal work injuries in 2001 occurred in Florida (368). Georgia recorded the second largest number (235), followed by North Carolina (203). These three states also have the largest workforces in the region. Similarly, jurisdictions with smaller workforces recorded fewer on-the-job fatal injuries. Among these, the District of Columbia had 11 fatalities and Delaware, 10. North Carolina recorded the largest drop in fatal work injuries, down 31 over the year, followed by Kentucky, down 27 and South Carolina, with a decline of 26. Over the year, only four southeastern states recorded increases in fatal work injuries. Georgia had the largest gain (40), followed by Florida (39) and Alabama (35). West Virginia recorded the smallest increase (17) in fatal work injuries. Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Virginia had little change in their fatal injury counts from the previous year. (See table 2.)

Causes of fatal work-related injuries varied widely across the states and areas in the Southeast. Highway crashes accounted for 33 percent of all on-the-job fatalities in Mississippi but only 18 percent in Kentucky. In the District of Columbia, 55 percent of workplace deaths were due to homicides, while in Virginia, only 5 percent. Falls to a lower level led to 20 percent of work related deaths in South Carolina, while Alabama and Kentucky each attributed only 8 percent to this event. (See table 3.)

Fatal workplace injury data are also available for four metropolitan areas in the Southeast in 2001 -- Atlanta, Georgia; Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida; and Washington-Baltimore, District of Columbia-Maryland-Virginia-West Virginia. Of the four, the Atlanta area had the highest number of on-the-job deaths at 104, while the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area recorded the fewest at 26. Homicides accounted for the largest share of workplace fatalities in the Atlanta area, while highway crashes made up the largest percentage in the Tampa and Washington-Baltimore areas. (See tables 4 and 5.)

Background of the program

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, part of the BLS occupational safety and health statistics program, provides the most complete count of fatal work injuries available. The program uses diverse state and federal data sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Information about each workplace fatality (occupation and other worker characteristics, equipment being used, and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies. This method assures counts are as complete and accurate as possible.

This is the tenth year that the fatality census has been conducted in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The BLS fatality census is a federal/state cooperative venture in which costs are shared equally. Additional state-specific data are available from the participating state agencies listed below. Another BLS program, the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, profiles worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses that result in lost worktime and presents frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Copies of the 2001 news release on nonfatal injuries and illnesses are available from BLS by calling (404) 331-3415 or by accessing the website listed below. Incidence rates for 2001 by

industry were published in December 2002, and information on 2001 worker and case characteristics will be available in April 2003. For additional data, access the BLS Internet site: <http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm>. To request a copy of BLS Report 961 which includes several articles and highlights 2000 fatality data, e-mail your address to BLSinfoAtlanta@bls.gov or write to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 61 Forsyth Street, SW, Room 7T50, Atlanta, GA 30303.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Definitions

For a fatality to be included in the census, the decedent must have been employed (that is working for pay, compensation, or profit) at the time of the event, engaged in a legal work activity, or present at the site of the incident as a requirement of his or her job. These criteria are generally broader than those used by federal and state agencies administering specific laws and regulations. (Fatalities that occur during a person's commute to or from work are excluded from the census counts.)

Data presented in this release include deaths occurring in 2001 that resulted from traumatic occupational injuries. An injury is defined as any intentional or unintentional wound or damage to the body resulting from acute exposure to energy, such as heat, electricity, or kinetic energy from a crash, or from the absence of such essentials as heat or oxygen caused by a specific event, incident, or series of events within a single workday or shift. Included are open wounds, intracranial and internal injuries, heatstroke, hypothermia, asphyxiation, acute poisonings resulting from short-term exposures limited to the worker's shift, suicides and homicides, and work injuries listed as underlying or contributory causes of death.

Information on work-related fatal illnesses is not reported in the BLS census and is excluded from the attached tables because the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the difficulty of linking illnesses to work make identification of a universe problematic.

Measurement techniques and limitations

Data for the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries are compiled from various federal, state, and local administrative sources--including death certificates, workers' compensation reports and claims, reports to various regulatory agencies, medical examiner reports, and police reports--as well as news and other non-governmental reports. Diverse sources are used because studies have shown that no single source captures all job-related fatalities. Source documents are matched so that each fatality is counted only once. To ensure that a fatality occurred while the decedent was at work, information is verified from two or more independent source documents or from a source document and a follow-up questionnaire. Approximately 30 data elements are collected, coded, and tabulated, including information about the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved.

Identification and verification of work-related fatalities.

In 2001, there were 148 cases included for which work relationship could not be independently verified; however, the information on the initiating source document for these cases was sufficient to determine that the incident was likely to be job related. Data for these fatalities, which primarily affected self-employed workers, are included in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries counts. An additional 16 fatalities submitted by states were not included because the initiating source document had insufficient information to determine work relationship and could not be verified by either an independent source document or a follow-up questionnaire.

States may identify additional fatal work injuries after data collection closeout for a reference year. In addition, other fatalities excluded from the published count because of insufficient information to determine work relationship may subsequently be verified as work related. States have up to one year to update their initial published state counts. This procedure ensures that fatality data are disseminated as quickly as possible and that no legitimate case is excluded from the counts. Thus, each year's report should be considered preliminary until the next year's data are issued. Increases in the published counts based on additional information have averaged less than 100 fatalities per year or less than 1.5 percent of the total. The BLS national news release issued August 14, 2001, reported a total of 5,915 fatal work injuries for 2000. Since then, an additional 5 fatal work injuries were identified, bringing the total for 2000 to 5,920.

Federal/state agency coverage

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or other federal or state agencies or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage. Thus, any comparison between the BLS fatality census counts and those released by other agencies should take into account the different coverage requirements and definitions being used.

Several federal and state agencies have jurisdiction over workplace safety and health. OSHA and affiliated agencies in states with approved safety programs cover the largest portion of the nation's workers. However, injuries and illnesses occurring in certain industries or activities, such as coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and highway, water, rail, and air transportation, are excluded from OSHA coverage because they are covered by other federal agencies, such as the Mine Safety and Health Administration and various agencies within the Department of Transportation. Fatalities occurring in activities regulated by federal agencies other than OSHA accounted for about 16 percent of the fatal work injuries in 2001.

Fatalities occurring among several other groups of workers are generally not covered by any federal or state agencies. These groups include self-employed and unpaid family workers, which accounted for about 19 percent of the fatalities; laborers on small farms, accounting for about 1 percent of the fatalities; and state and local government employees in states without OSHA-approved safety programs, which accounted for about 4 percent. (Approximately one-half of the states have approved OSHA safety programs, which cover state and local government employees.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: BLS thanks the participating states, New York City, and the District of Columbia for their efforts in collecting accurate, comprehensive, and useful data on fatal work injuries. BLS would like to thank in particular the New York City Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry for an exceptional job when faced with an unusually heavy workload. BLS also appreciates the efforts of all federal, state, local, and private sector agencies that submitted source documents used to identify fatal work injuries. Among these agencies are the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Transportation Safety Board; the U.S. Coast Guard; the Mine Safety and Health Administration; the Employment Standards Administration (Federal Employees' Compensation and Longshore and Harbor Workers' divisions); the Department of Energy; state vital statistics registrars, coroners, and medical examiners; state departments of health, labor and industries, and workers' compensation agencies; state and local police departments; and state farm bureaus.

CFOI participating state agencies and telephone numbers

State	Agency	Telephone number
Alabama	Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
Alaska	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(907) 465-4539
Arizona	Industrial Commission of Arizona	(602) 542-3739
Arkansas	Department of Labor	(501) 682-4542
California	Department of Industrial Relations	(415) 703-4776
Colorado	Department of Public Health	(303) 692-2173
Connecticut	Labor Department	(860) 566-4380
Delaware	Department of Labor	(302) 761-8223
District of Columbia	Center for Health Statistics	(202) 442-5920
Florida	Department of Labor and Employment Security	(850) 922-8953
Georgia	Department of Labor	(404) 679-0687
Hawaii	Department of Labor and Industrial Relations	(808) 586-9001
Idaho	Industrial Commission	(208) 334-6090
Illinois	Department of Public Health	(217) 782-5750
Indiana	Department of Labor	(317) 232-2668
Iowa	Division of Labor Services	(515) 281-5151
Kansas	Department of Health and Environment	(785) 296-1058
Kentucky	Labor Cabinet	(502) 564-3070
Louisiana	Department of Labor	(225) 342-3126
Maine	Bureau of Labor Standards	(207) 624-6440
Maryland	Division of Labor and Industry	(410) 767-2356
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 624-5627
Michigan	Department of Consumer and Industry Services	(517) 322-5258
Minnesota	Department of Labor and Industry	(651) 284-5568
Mississippi	Department of Health	(601) 576-7186
Missouri	Department of Health	(573) 751-6155
Montana	Department of Labor and Industry	(406) 444-3297
Nebraska	Workers' Compensation Court	(402) 471-3547
Nevada	Division of Industrial Relations	(775) 684-7081
New Hampshire	Department of Public Health	(603) 271-4647
New Jersey	Department of Health and Senior Services	(609) 984-1863
New Mexico	Occupational Health and Safety Bureau	(505) 827-4230
New York State	Department of Health	(518) 402-7900
New York City	Department of Health	(212) 788-4585
North Carolina	Department of Labor	(919) 733-0337
North Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-4183
Oklahoma	Department of Labor	(405) 528-1500
Oregon	Department of Consumer and Business Services	(503) 947-7051
Pennsylvania	Department of Health	(717) 783-2548
Rhode Island	Department of Health	(401) 222-2812
South Carolina	Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	(803) 734-4298
South Dakota	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(312) 353-7200
Tennessee	Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(615) 741-1749
Texas	Workers' Compensation Commission	(512) 804-4637
Utah	Labor Commission	(801) 530-6823
Vermont	Department of Labor and Industry	(802) 828-5076
Virginia	Department of Labor and Industry	(804) 786-6427
Washington	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5512
West Virginia	Department of Labor	(304) 558-7890
Wisconsin	Department of Workforce Development	(608) 266-7850
Wyoming	Bureau of Labor Statistics	(816) 426-2483

Table 1. Number of fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and the Southeast, 2000-2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities					
	United States			Southeast		
	2000 ^{2/}	2001	Over-the-year change	2000 ^{2/}	2001	Over-the-year change
Total	5,920	5,900	-20	1,697	1,679	-18
Transportation incidents	2,573	2,517	-56	738	731	-7
Highway	1,365	1,404	39	403	423	20
Assaults and violent acts	930	902	-28	275	241	-34
Homicides	677	639	-38	219	189	-30
Contact with objects and equipment	1,006	962	-44	272	252	-20
Struck by object	571	553	-18	150	138	-12
Falls	734	808	74	210	228	18
Fall to lower level	659	698	39	184	200	16
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	481	499	18	145	158	13
Contact with electrical current	256	285	29	97	89	-8
Fires and explosions	177	188	11	43	45	2
Other events or exposures ^{3/}	19	24	5	14	24	10

^{1/} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

^{2/} Originally, 5,915 fatal work injuries were reported for calendar year 2000. Since then, an additional 5 job-related fatalities were reported, bringing the total fatality count for 2000 to 5,920. One of these fatalities occurred in South Carolina, which affected both the state and Southeast totals for calendar year 2000.

^{3/} Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion."

Table 2. Fatal occupational injuries for the United States and states in the Southeast, 1997-2001

State	Year					1997-2001 average
	1997	1998	1999	2000 ^{1/}	2001	
United States	6,238	6,055	6,054	5,920	5,900	6,033
Southeast	1,844	1,776	1,781	1,697	1,679	1,755
Alabama	139	135	123	103	138	128
Delaware	17	11	14	13	10	13
District of Columbia	23	13	14	13	11	15
Florida	366	384	345	329	368	358
Georgia	242	202	229	195	235	221
Kentucky	143	117	120	132	105	123
Maryland	82	78	82	84	64	78
Mississippi	104	113	128	125	111	116
North Carolina	210	228	222	234	203	219
South Carolina	131	111	139	115	89	117
Tennessee	168	150	154	160	136	154
Virginia	166	177	154	148	146	158
West Virginia	53	57	57	46	63	55

^{1/} Originally, 5,915 fatal work injuries were reported for calendar year 2000. Since then, an additional 5 job-related fatalities were reported, bringing the total fatality count for 2000 to 5,920. One of these fatalities occurred in South Carolina, which affected both the state and Southeast totals for calendar year 2000.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and the Southeast, 2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities							
	United States		Alabama		Delaware		District of Columbia	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	5,900	100	138	100	10	100	11	100
Transportation incidents	2,517	43	65	47	5	50	-	-
Highway	1,404	24	39	28	-	-	-	-
Nonhighway incident, except rail, air, water	324	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aircraft	247	4	14	10	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	383	6	6	4	-	-	-	-
All other	159	3	6	4	-	-	-	-
Assaults and violent acts	902	15	13	9	-	-	6	55
Homicides	639	11	12	9	-	-	6	55
Contact with objects and equipment	962	16	22	16	-	-	-	-
Struck by object	553	9	10	7	-	-	-	-
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	266	5	10	7	-	-	-	-
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	122	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Falls	808	14	12	9	-	-	-	-
Fall to lower level	698	12	11	8	-	-	-	-
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	499	8	12	9	-	-	-	-
Contact with electrical current	285	5	8	6	-	-	-	-
All other	214	4	4	3	-	-	-	-
Fires and explosions	188	3	13	9	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and the Southeast, 2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities							
	Florida		Georgia		Kentucky		Maryland	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	368	100	235	100	105	100	64	100
Transportation incidents	151	41	97	41	41	39	24	38
Highway	90	24	52	22	19	18	14	22
Nonhighway incident, except rail, air, water	15	4	7	3	14	13	5	8
Aircraft	12	3	24	10	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle, mobile equipment	28	8	13	6	4	4	-	-
All other	6	2	1	-	4	4	5	8
Assaults and violent acts	68	19	46	20	11	10	18	28
Homicides	45	12	39	17	7	7	15	23
Contact with objects and equipment	34	9	31	13	29	28	7	11
Struck by object	20	5	17	7	14	13	-	-
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	10	3	10	4	13	12	-	-
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	-	-	4	2	-	-	3	5
Falls	62	17	37	16	12	11	7	11
Fall to lower level	52	14	33	14	8	8	6	9
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	47	13	19	8	7	7	7	11
Contact with electrical current	28	8	10	4	4	4	5	8
All other	19	5	9	4	3	3	2	3
Fires and explosions	4	1	3	1	5	5	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and the Southeast, 2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities							
	Mississippi		North Carolina		South Carolina		Tennessee	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	111	100	203	100	89	100	136	100
Transportation incidents	53	48	93	46	37	42	64	47
Highway	37	33	52	26	23	26	38	28
Nonhighway incident, except rail, air, water	-	-	9	4	4	4	5	4
Aircraft	4	4	11	5	-	-	13	106
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,								
mobile equipment	6	5	14	7	6	7	8	6
All other	6	5	7	3	4	4	-	-
Assaults and violent acts	12	11	31	15	10	11	12	9
Homicides	11	10	23	11	10	11	10	7
Contact with objects and equipment	16	14	33	16	10	11	26	19
Struck by object	8	7	23	11	3	3	18	13
Caught in or compressed by equipment or								
objects	6	5	5	2	6	7	7	5
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-
Falls	12	11	26	13	19	21	16	12
Fall to lower level	11	10	22	11	18	20	15	11
Exposure to harmful substances or	15	14	18	9	8	9	11	8
environment								
Contact with electrical current	11	10	10	5	-	-	6	4
All other	4	4	8	4	8	9	5	4
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-	5	6	6	4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in the United States and the Southeast, 2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities			
	Virginia		West Virginia	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	146	100	63	100
Transportation incidents	68	47	33	52
Highway	39	27	20	32
Nonhighway incident, except rail, air, water	14	10	5	8
Aircraft	-	-	-	-
Pedestrian, nonpassenger struck by vehicle,				
mobile equipment	11	8	5	8
All other	4	3	3	5
Assaults and violent acts	10	7	4	6
Homicides	7	5	4	6
Contact with objects and equipment	31	21	13	21
Struck by object	19	13	6	10
Caught in or compressed by equipment				
or objects	10	7	-	-
Caught in or crushed in collapsing materials	-	-	7	11
Falls	16	11	9	14
Fall to lower level	16	11	8	13
Exposure to harmful substances or				
environment	11	8	3	5
Contact with electrical current	7	5	-	-
All other	4	3	3	5
Fires and explosions	9	6	-	-

^{1/} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structure.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding.

Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet criteria.

Table 4. Fatal occupational injuries in selected metropolitan areas by selected industry sectors, 2001

Metropolitan area	Total fatalities (number)	Industry sector (percent) ^{1/}		
		Total	Goods producing	Service producing
Atlanta, Georgia	104	100	49	45
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida	26	100	35	19
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Florida	40	100	38	38
Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V.	99	100	47	39

^{1/} Percentages may not add to totals because data are not available or do not meet publication criteria.

Table 5. Fatal occupational injuries by detailed event or exposure in selected metropolitan areas, 2001

Event or exposure ^{1/}	Fatalities in percent			
	Atlanta, Georgia	Miami- Fort Lauderdale, Florida	Tampa- St. Petersburg- Clearwater, Florida	Washington- Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V.
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Transportation incidents	26.0	23.1	40.0	39.4
Highway	13.5	19.2	27.5	26.3
Assaults and violent acts	28.8	23.1	15.0	22.2
Homicides	26.0	-	12.5	20.2
Contact with objects and equipment	13.5	-	-	12.1
Falls	26.0	19.2	22.5	13.1
Exposure to harmful substances or environment	4.8	19.2	17.5	9.1
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-

^{1/} Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structure.

NOTE: Totals may include categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Dashes indicate less than 0.5 percent or data that are not available or that do not meet publication criteria.